

What is claimed is:

1. A receiving stand for a frame stacking system of the type used to stack prefabricated frames, said receiving stand comprising:

5 a bench configured for receiving and supporting the frames thereon;

10 a stanchion pivotally movable relative to the bench about a pivot axis of the stanchion between a raised, generally upright position in which at least a portion of the stanchion extends above the bench to facilitate the stacking of frames on the bench, and a lowered position away from the frames stacked on the bench to facilitate unloading of the frames from the bench; and

15 a spring member biasing the stanchion toward its raised position.

2. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 1 wherein the spring member comprises at least one spring.

3. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 2 wherein the spring member comprises four springs.

5 4. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 2 wherein the stanchion has a lower end extending below the pivot axis of the stanchion in the upright position of the stanchion, the at least one spring applying a biasing force to the lower end of the stanchion to bias the stanchion toward its raised, upright position.

5. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 4 wherein the at least one spring is a linear spring having

one end connected to the lower end of the stanchion for
conjoint movement therewith about the pivot axis of the
stanchion, and an opposite end fixed against movement
relative to the pivot axis of the stanchion.

6. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 5
wherein said receiving stand has a front end and a rear
end, said portion of the stanchion extending above the
pivot axis in the upright position of the stanchion
pivoting substantially rearward and down relative to the
bench upon movement of the stanchion toward its lowered
position, said lower end of the stanchion below the pivot
axis thereof pivoting substantially forward and up
relative to the bench upon movement of the stanchion
toward its lowered position, said opposite end of the at
least one spring being fixed against movement relative to
the pivot axis at a location substantially rearward of
said pivot axis whereby pivoting movement of the
stanchion toward its lowered position elongates said at
least one spring such that said elongation of the spring
generates a biasing force acting on the lower end of the
stanchion to bias the stanchion toward its raised,
upright position.

7. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 6
wherein the bench comprises a base, at least one support
leg extending up from the base, and an elongate rail
member supported by the at least one support leg and
oriented for receiving and supporting the frames thereon,
said receiving stand further comprising a carriage
mounted on the rail member for longitudinal movement

thereon, the stanchion being supported by the carriage
for conjoint movement with the carriage on the rail
member, said stanchion being pivotally connected to the
carriage for rotation relative to the carriage and the
bench between the lowered and the raised, upright
positions of the stanchion.

8. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 7
wherein said opposite end of the at least one spring is
connected to the carriage in fixed relation with the
pivot axis of the stanchion.

9. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 7
wherein in the raised, upright position of the stanchion
the lower end of the stanchion extends down below the
rail member of the bench.

10. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 1
further comprising a shield panel generally adjacent the
spring member for reducing the risk of injury in the
event the spring member fails.

11. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 10
wherein the shield panel is connected to the stanchion
for conjoint pivoting movement therewith, said shield
panel being configured and arranged for positioning
generally adjacent the spring member in the lowered
position of the stanchion.

12. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 1
wherein said spring member applies a biasing force to the

5 stanchion at a location longitudinally offset from the
pivot axis of the stanchion upon movement of the
stanchion from its raised, upright position toward its
lowered position to bias the stanchion toward its raised,
upright position.

5 13. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 1
wherein the bench comprises a base, at least one support
leg extending up from the base, and an elongate rail
member supported by the at least one support leg and
oriented for receiving and supporting the frames thereon,
said stanchion at least partially extending down below
the rail member of the bench.

5 14. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 13
wherein the stanchion has a generally U-shaped lower end
comprising a cross-member extending generally
transversely over the rail member of the bench and a pair
of side members depending from the cross-member to below
the rail member in the raised, upright position of the
stanchion.

5 15. A receiving stand as set forth in claim 14
wherein the cross-member of the lower end of the
stanchion is disposed generally below the pivot axis of
the stanchion.